

On Page 29, please make the following amendments in the Abstract as follows:

- - Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention relates to a new immortalized hepatocyte culture of human ~~(preferably human fetal)~~ normal cell origin, a method of producing said culture, a screening method for a compound or a salt thereof which inhibits or promotes an enzyme activity, gene expression, or induction of gene expression involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, ~~or which inhibits or promotes the expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, or which inhibits or promotes the induction of expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, characterized by the use of said culture, a compound which inhibits or promotes an enzyme activity involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, a compound which inhibits or promotes the expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver, or a compound which inhibits or promotes the induction of expression of a gene encoding an enzyme involved in the metabolism of xenobiotics in the liver,~~ compounds obtained using said screening method, or salts thereof. The immortalized hepatocyte culture of human normal cell origin of the present invention is useful in, for example, screening for compounds or salts thereof having therapeutic/preventive effects on hepatic insufficiency. - -